

1 **Amendments to the Specification:**

2 Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 3 and ending on line 6 of
3 page 3 with the following paragraph:

4
5 -- Another implementation includes a system for managing objects that represent
6 users in an instant messaging conversation, wherein the system includes a data object
7 representing a user, the data object having an object name including a location identifier
8 and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing,~~ and an object store operable to retrieve the
9 data object from a location identified by the location identifier and store the data object in
10 a local cache based on the hash value. --

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12 Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 31 and ending on line 11
13 of page 31 with the following paragraph:

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15 -- A method includes receiving a name associated with a user on a remote
16 computer, the name including location data and a hash value uniquely associated with a
17 data object representing the user and retrieving the data object from one of a local cache
18 based on the hash value or a location identified by the location data. A system for
19 managing objects representing users in an instant messaging conversation includes a data
20 object representing a user, the data object having an object name including a location
21 identifier and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing,~~ and an object store operable to
22 retrieve the data object from a location identified by the location identifier and store the
23 data object in a local cache based on the hash value.--
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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for communicating object data comprising:
generating a hash value based on object data representing a user of a local
computer;
storing the object data at a storage location; and
returning an object name having the hash value and a location identifier
identifying the storage location, the object name enabling a user of a remote computer to
access the object data.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
retrieving the object data from a local cache based on the hash value.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
in response to receiving the request, retrieving the object data from the location
using the location identifier.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a request for the object data, the request including the object name; and
determining whether the requested object data is in a local cache based on the
hash value; and

1 if the requested object data is in the local cache, retrieving the object data from the
2 local cache,
3 otherwise, retrieving the requested object data from the location identified by the
4 location identifier.

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6 5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
7 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:
8 retrieving the requested object data from network storage.

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10 6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
11 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:
12 retrieving the requested object data from a local file system.

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15 7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 wherein the retrieving the requested
16 object data from the location identified by the location identifier comprises:
17 retrieving the requested object data from a remote file system.

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19 8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein the retrieving the requested
20 object data from a remote file system comprises:
21 accessing the remote file system via a peer-to-peer connection.

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23 9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein the retrieving the requested
24 object data from a remote file system comprises:
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accessing the remote file system via a connection through a switchboard server.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

receiving a name associated with a user on a remote computer, the name including location data and a hash value uniquely associated with a data object representing the user; and

retrieving the data object from one of a local cache based on the hash value or a location identified by the location data.

11. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 10 wherein the retrieving the data object from one of a local cache based on the hash value or a location identified by the location data comprises:

determining whether the data object is in a local cache based on the hash value; and

if the data object is in the local cache, retrieving the data object from the local cache;

otherwise, retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data.

12. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises retrieving the data object from a remote file system.

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2 13. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
3 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
4 retrieving the data object from a local file system.
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6 14. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
7 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
8 retrieving the data object from a network storage.
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10 15. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11 wherein the
11 retrieving the data object from the location identified by the location data comprises
12 accessing a remote computer via a peer-to-peer connection.
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15 16. (Currently Amended) A system for managing objects representing users in an
16 instant messaging conversation, the system comprising:

17 a data object representing a user, the data object having an object name including
18 a location identifier and a hash value, ~~the object name allowing~~; and

19 an object store operable to retrieve the data object from a location identified by
20 the location identifier and store the data object in a local cache based on the hash value.
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22 17. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the object name further
23 comprises a creator identifier identifying a creator of the data object.
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1 18. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 further comprising a transport
2 protocol stack enabling the object store to retrieve the data object from a remote storage
3 location over a peer-to-peer connection.
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5 19. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the data object further
6 comprise metadata descriptive of the data object.
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8 20. (Original) A system as recited in claim 19 wherein the metadata comprises:
9 a friendly name field;
10 a type field indicating a type of data object; and
11 a hash value based on the metadata.
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13 21. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the location identifier
14 comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).
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16 22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 16 wherein the location identifier
17 comprises a uniform resource identifier (URI).
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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment and prompt issuance of the subject application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/20/03

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